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Message Text

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47
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 ISO-00 EUR-25 SCI-06 PC-10 USIA-15

IO-14 INR-11 DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 FDRE-00

SWF-02 IGA-02 /197 W
---------- 081496
P R 021745Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9547
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
USINT ALGIERS

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AFDROUGHT

E O 11652 N A
SUBJ: MALI AIRLIFT

REF: STATE 165357

1. IN BAMAKO 1414 (PARA 2) DTD MAY 31, WE SUGGESTED
THAT A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF ALGIERS-GAO TRANS-SHIPMENT
WOULD NOT RPT NOT PRECLUDE THE REQUIREMENT OF DONOR-
PROVIDED AIRLIFT TO VI REGION BUT WOULD DIMINISH THE
TOTAL TONNAGE WHICH HAD TO BE AIRLIFTED TO GAO REGION.
IN BAMAKO 1979 (PARA 2 C) DTD JULY 8 WE POINTED OUT THAT
GOM WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT ITS INABILITY
TO COPE ADEQUATELY WITH DROUGHT-RELATED DETERIORATION
IN THS NIORO-NAMPALA STRETCH OF LAND JUST SOUTH OF THE
MAURITANIA BORDER.

2. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, AND KEEPING IN MIND FACT THAT GOM
DROUGHT COORDINATOR HAS BEEN KEPT POSTED ON AID EFFORT
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VIS-A-VIS ORAN-GAO TRANS-SHIPMENT, THE TOTAL FIGURES

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AIRLIFTED BY U.S. DURING JUNE-JULY 1974 TO DATE REVEAL A
SIGNIFICANT PATTERN. FOR JUNE: GAO (235 MT); GOUNDAM
(189 MT); NIORO (187 MT), TIMBUCTU (245 MT); TESSALIT
(10 MT). FOR JULY: GAO (550 MT); GOUNDAM (289) MT),
NIORO (1095 MT); TIMBUCTU (357 MT); TESAALIT
(ZERO MT). THUS, AS GOM BECAME CONVINCED THAT ORAN-GAO
SHIPMENT COULD ARRIVE GAO AT LEAST ONE MONTH BEFORE
NAVIGABLE SEASON (ON THE OOXPTI-GAO NIGER RIVER ROUTE),
IT BEGAN DIVERTING FLIGHTS PREVIOUSLY DESTINED FOR GAO
TO HARD-HIT AREA OF NIORO.

3. ALTHOUGH NO WORD HAS BEEN RECEIVED HERE THAT ORAN-GAO
SHIPMENT HAS REACHED MALI BORDER IT WOULD SEEM REASONABLE
TO COUNT ON 1,385 MT BEING OFF-LOADED AT GAO BY AUG 15.
(ISSUE OF COOLNOU-GAO AND ABIDJAN-GAO SHIPMENTS REFERRED
TO IN REFTEL APPEARS LESS CLEAR SINCE WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED
WORD TO DATE ON FIRM PROJECTED ARRIVAL DATES OF GRAIN IN
GAO. AT ANY RATE ONCE ORAN-GAO 1,385 MT ARRIVES AT GAO, GOM
DROUGHT COORDINATOR DOUKARA INTENDS UTILIZE
REMAINING PORTION OF US 5100 MT
AIRLIFT IN
ATTEMPT TO INSURE FULL COVERAGE OF TIMBUCTU, GOUNDAM,
NIORO AND NARA RAINY SEASON NEEDS.

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF: (A) UNCERTAIN DRYING OF COTONOU
AND ABIDJAN ROAD SHIPMENTS TO GAO, (B) DOUKARAFS
ADJUSTMENT OF JULY AIRLIFT DELIVERY SCHEDULES TO
ACCOMMODATE STRICKEN NIORO AREA (BASED ON ASSUMPTION
THAT ORAN-GAO 1,600 WOULD ARRIVE GAO PRIOR TO MID-AUGUST)
AND (C) SAFETY MARGIN FOR NIORO, NARA, TIMBUCTU AND
GOUNDAM WHICH IS INSURED BY CONTINUATION OF U.S. AIRLIFT
TO 5,000 MT GOAL, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT U.S. AIRLIFT
NOT RPT NOT BE CURTAILED. AT THE SAME TIME, BASED ON
OUR ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS-TO DATE ON SUPPLYING VARIOUS
AREAS IN NEED AND PROSPECTIVE ARRIVALS, WE RECOMMEND
THAT PLANS BE MADE TO CEASE THE KING GRAIN OPERATION FOR
MALI ONCE THE 5000 MT GOAL HAS BEEN REACHED, WHICH JTF
ESTIMATES WILL BE O/A AUG 25. DISPOSITION OF KING
GRAIN AIRCRAFT WILL OF COURSE DEPEND ON DECISIONS TO BE
MADE WITH RESPECT TO AIRLIFT FOR MAURITANIA AND PREFERRED
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DEPLOYMENT.
MCGUIRE

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NNN

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